

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES.



Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1938.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in Circular 1728 issued by the Ministry of Health to you on October 25th, 1938.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

41, Long Street, Devizes.

General Statistics.

Area in acres, 1,391.

Registrar General's Estimate of Population, 1938, 7000.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1938) as shown by rate books, 2092.

Rateable value, £43,893.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £171 1 1.

No fresh industries started in the Borough during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	64	48	112
Illegitimate ...	3	1	4
Total	67	49	116
Birth rate per 1000 estimated population	...	...	16.57
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.1
Still Births.	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	2	1	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total Births	...	...	17.0
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality per 1000 total Births	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality for England and Wales ...	...	...	3.08
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	3	1	4
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	...	34·5
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Live Births	...	34·5
Illegitimate	...	—
Deaths from all Causes	M. 56 ; F. 60 ; Total	116
Death Rate per 1000 Estimated Population...		16·57
Adjusted Birth Rate (C.F. 0·78)	...	12·92
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	11·6
Deaths from Cancer all ages :—		

	M.	F.	Total
	7	8	15
" " Measles	—	—	—
" " Whooping Cough	—	—	—
" " Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—

The absence of any Maternal Deaths is a satisfactory feature.

Total Deaths as returned by the Registrar General.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>				<i>Causes of Death.</i>			
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1 All Causes	56	60	116	18 Other Circulatory Diseases	10	8	18
2 Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	19 Bronchitis	...	2	2
3 Measles	...	...	...	20 Pneumonia, all forms	4	1	5
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	21 Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	2
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	22 Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
6 Diphtheria	...	...	...	23 Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...
7 Influenza	3	2	5	24 Appendicitis	...	...	...
8 Incephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	25 Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3	26 Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...
10 Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	27 Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	2
12 Tabes, G.P.I., etc.	...	...	...	29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
13 Cancer	7	8	15	30 Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...
14 Diabetes	...	...	2	31 Congenital Causes, etc.	1	1	2
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	2	2	4	32 Senility	1	2	3
16 Heart Disease	18	24	42	33 Suicide	...	...	...
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	34 Other Violence	...	...	...
				35 Other Defined Diseases	5	...	5
				36 Ill-defined or not known	...	...	...

There was no undue mortality during the year calling for comment. Deaths from the Circulatory, Respiratory, and Digestive systems totalled approximately 55, 8, and 9% respectively.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Office (part time) : G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors (full time) : Jan. 1st to April 30th, S. M. PAYNE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

June 1st to October 31st, A. ARCHER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Dec. 18th to Dec. 31st,

G. P. LAWRENCE, A.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

The two gaps which occurred between the above appointments were very undesirable, and have not facilitated the work of newcomers to this appointment.

Laboratory Facilities.

No alteration to report.

Ambulance Facilities.

No alteration to report.

Nursing in the Home.

No alteration during the year. The Town Nurse attended 61 patients, and paid a total of 1806 visits.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Orthopaedic Clinics.—During 1938 the following patients attended from the Borough, 24 children (77 attendances) and 6 adults (23 attendances).

Infantile Welfare Centre.—There is no Ante-Natal Clinic in the Borough. Examination of expectant Mothers left in the hands of certified midwives and local practitioners.

At "Ivy House," a private Maternity Home, arrangements have been made by the County Council for admission of emergency obstetric cases attended by the Medical Officers of Public Assistance Committees.

A State Registered Midwife, same subsidised by the Wiltshire County Council, undertook Maternity work of the Borough throughout the year.

Provision of milk for nursing mothers is obtained through Official (County) Health Visitors, acting on their own observations or after reports sent them by Voluntary District Visitors.

Hospitals.

1. VOLUNTARY.—Devizes and District Hospital.

543 In-Patients treated during 1938. Average number of patients in Hospital 25·1
Out-Patients treated, 721. Expenses have risen, partly owing to increased salaries of Staff, and the year ended with a considerable adverse balance of over £800.

2. PUBLIC.—Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital.

Admissions during the Year 1938.

Diseases.	Devizes Borough.	Devizes Rural District.	Pewsey Rural District.	Other Admin- istrative Areas.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	20	16	10	—	46
Diphtheria	—	2	6	1	9
Infective Paraotitis	3	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	1	—	2	—	3
Measles	—	1	2	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	2
Streptococcal Throats	2	—	—	—	2
Other Diseases	—	—	1	—	1
Observation	4	3	—	—	7
	30	23	22	1	76

Three deaths occurred as follows:—1 from Broncho-pneumonia and Whooping Cough, aged 1 year; 1 from Influenzal Broncho-pneumonia complicating Pulmonary T.B.; a 3rd from General Peritonitis simulating Enteric Fever. None of these were from the Borough. The observation cases included a severe quinsey, a non-diphtheritic Laryngitis, contacts of scarlet fever cases with sore throats but no rash. The mumps cases were all nurses from the Devizes and District Hospital. As will be evident from the above table a number of cases, some for observation, others not statutorily notifiable, but infectious, were usefully admitted. Without the new Cubical Block this could not have been done.

Public Cleansing.

The receptacles for garbage in use all over the town vary widely, and some are unsuitable and inadequate. Your Council needs standard type sanitary bins for the tenants of their own houses.

Shops.

No official action taken during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

No official action taken during the year.

Schools.

In good order. No sanitary defects dealt with during year.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

The Scarlet Fever cases occurred in ones and twos, spread over the year, and were generally mild in type, and not confined to any particular area.

Notification of Pneumonia is somewhat more frequent but valueless for statistical purposes.

Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1938.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	20	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever, including paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	9	4	1
Other Diseases, generally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Other Diseases, notifiable locally ...	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases Notified during 1938, in Age Distribution.

Disease.	Ages.														Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	2	11	2	—	1	1	1	—	20		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2		
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	—	2	9		

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Water pumped Year ending December 1938, 112,187,000 gallons.
 Rainfall Year ending December 1938, 25·61 inches.
 Total population supplied approximately, 9,000.
 Consumption of water, per head, per day, 34·1 gallons.
 Work carried out during year, extension of water mains only.
 Two Bacteriological examinations were made during the year, both satisfactory.

Sewerage and Drainage.

No extensive additions were made during the year, and Plans for enlarging the Breachfield Works to take the sewerage from the developing Housing sites at the Nursteed Road area were under consideration. A small group of houses were drained out on the Nursteed Road, and water closets erected at Messrs. W. E. Chivers' old saw mills connected up with the new sewer.

Swimming Pool.

Public Baths in good order, and Chlorination carried out continuously during the season.

Housing.

By the end of December, 1938, the last of the 48 houses building by the Corporation had been completed and occupied.

These comprised 30 three bedroom houses built under third and final instalment of the Slum Clearance of 1934; and 18 houses to meet the needs of overcrowding as ascertained by the Survey of 1935-36.

20 houses were demolished during the year; 30 more were vacated and awaiting demolition; and twelve were still occupied though condemned.

The need for increased housing accommodation at economic rents for the general population was also considered during the year.

On April 11th, 1938, there were 228 bona-fide applications for new houses which would require 150 additional dwellings. It was estimated that 75 per cent. of applicants could pay a rent inclusive of rates of only 7/6 to 7/9 per week, their needs could only be met by the Local Authority.

On June 16th, the following recommendation of the Health and Housing Committee on May 23rd was endorsed and passed by the Council.

"That the Committee being of the opinion that further houses for letting at an economic rent are required, be authorised to explore available sites and submit a scheme."

On November 28th, a plan to provide 16 dwellings for aged persons on the site of condemned Borough Property in Sheep Street was submitted to the Health and Housing Committee who recommended as follows :—

"That the Council proceed to secure the evacuation of the buildings and the demolition thereof within 6 weeks of the date on which they were vacated, and that the plan for rebuilding as submitted be approved, and the Ministers sanction of the scheme be applied for; the estimated cost being £1920. This was approved by the Council on December 15th last.

Tentative enquiries and negotiations as to building sites were made in the latter half of the year without success.

By December 31st, there were 250 genuine applications for new houses, 20 per cent. of these from the occupants of dwellings known to be seriously defective and certain to be classified as unfit on any future inspection.

The above facts speak for themselves ; further the prospect must be faced of available housing accommodation being strained very severely, either by an influx of refugees in the event of war, or by the demands of imported labour employed on Government works in the vicinity. The above situation is most undesirable from the health angle, and has obvious potential dangers. Further housing accommodation for those now living in unhealthy dwellings, for aged persons, and for general needs is urgently required.

I trust your Council will soon be able to take appropriate action, despite adverse economic factors, such as possible labour shortage and rising costs in the building trade.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
35—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	1

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculous Employees in Milk Trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number on Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1938	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
	7	3	3	3

Respiratory Tuberculosis is generally notified. All deaths registered during 1938 were previously notified.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1938

The Report of G. PRICE LAWRENCE, Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS of the BOROUGH of DEVIZES.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the general activities of your Sanitary Services for the year 1938.

General Inspection of the District.

The nature and number of inspections carried out by your Inspector during the year 1938 were as follows :—

House Inspection (Housing Act, 1936) ...	17
Overcrowding	157
Schools	3
Other Nuisances	1
Slaughterhouses	239
Cowsheds and Dairies	29
Drains, yards and water closets	87
Infectious disease	6
Factories and Workshops	35
Bakehouses	36
Common Lodging Houses	2
Cinemas	2
Market Inspections	48
Petroleum licences	40
Stables	5

Water Supply.

Two bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year.

Slaughterhouses.

There are three slaughterhouses in the district.

1. Registered premises situated at "Spitalcroft," privately owned.
2. Licenced premises situated at Dunkirk, privately owned.
3. Licenced premises situated on the Bath Road, owned by The Central Wiltshire Bacon Company.

Due credit has to be given to those responsible for the general cleanliness of these places, the liberal use of a copious supply of water, and early removal of offensive matter.

The provisions of Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 was very well observed.

A total of 17 licences had been issued covering the year 1938.

Notices to Limewash	5
Notices to remove manure	Nil
Notices to exhibit notices of registration	Nil

The following animals have been slaughtered during the year :—

Bovines	368
Calves	569
Sheep and Lambs	1133
Pigs	9440

The following table shows the amount of food either surrendered or condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

Beef	2 tons 6 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lbs.
Pork and Pig Meat	7 tons. 4 cwt. 14 lbs.
Mutton and Lamb	2 qr. 24 lbs.
Veal	1 cwt. 1 qr.
Tinned Goods	5 lbs.
Bottled Goods	10 lbs.
Chilled Beef	45 lbs.
Miscellaneous—Chicken	5 lbs.
Offal	3 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of Cowsheds on register	...	15
Number of Retail purveyors on register	...	15
Number of Wholesale purveyors on register	...	14
Inspection of Cowsheds	...	20
Inspection of Dairies ...	...	9
Notices served (linewashing and manure heaps)	...	15
Notices complied with	...	15

The following licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

Hampton's Dairy—Accredited milk—Bottling licence.

Co-operative Society—Pasteurised milk—Supplementary licence.

Milks furnished by outside Authorities.

Mr. Cannon, Old Park Farm, licenced by the Wiltshire County Council to produce Accredited Milk.

Mr. J. Bower, Old Park Farm, licenced by the Wiltshire County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Mr. R. S. Sheate, Sunnyside Farm, Caen Hill, licenced by the Wiltshire County Council to produce Accredited Milk.

Mr. Chandler, Lower Old Park Farm, Whitley Lane, licenced by the Wiltshire County Council to produce Accredited Milk.

During the year inspections of the various farms, dairies and milkshops in the area were made. The rapidly improving hygienic and Public Health spirit in the milk trade is still being maintained and while this may be due in some measure to the application of legislation, credit must also be given to the educative business initiative and the Public Health spirit which is so pronounced in the dairy business today.

No bacteriological samples of milk were taken during the year.

The general standard of our milk is a very good one indeed, but when realising its quality I regret to find that we have comparatively so little graded milk for sale within the area. There are, of course, obvious reasons, some of these being slightly increased cost of production, due to licensing fees and veterinary tests, and public indifference to the value of a pure milk supply.

Retail Milkshops and Dairies.

The number of persons that are licensed to sell Milk in the Borough is now 20. All milkshops and dairies have been inspected, and together with the utensils have found to be in a very clean condition.

Meat Purveyor's Premises.

There are 14 Meat Purveyors premises in the area. The premises and the rooms where the meat is prepared for sausages, etc., are periodically inspected under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number in Borough	4
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The shops and the rooms where the fish is prepared are inspected from time to time and are generally kept in a very clean condition.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one common lodging house in the Borough, which is well controlled and the bye-laws are being complied with. There has been no infectious disease at the premises during the year.

Rent and Mortgage Interest—Restriction Acts, 1920-1933.

No application was received during the year, for a certificate under the above Act.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging.

The collection of the house refuse is under the direct control of the Surveyor, and is disposed of by means of an Incinerator, now rapidly becoming worn (obsolescent).

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919.

Number of operations	79
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During the year numerous visits were made to food premises, empty shops, empty houses and canal banks and a considerable amount of poison was deposited in places infested by rats. It is, however, not generally appreciated that it is the duty of the occupier of any premises, to take, from time to time, such necessary and reasonable steps as will prevent infestation by rats.

I am satisfied that only by an active campaign of gassing, poisoning and other methods of destruction will we succeed in keeping these pests within reasonable numbers.

Bed Bugs.

The number of houses found to be infested was as follows :—

(a.) Council Property	...	...	11
(b.) Other houses	...	...	Nil
Number of disinfestations carried out	...	...	11

All tenants of houses which have been disinfested, have been instructed to keep their houses as clean as possible and to report to the Sanitary Authority immediately on the first signs of vermin.

Any Council house found to be in a verminous condition were disinfected by the Health Department. The method employed for the eradication of bugs consists of stripping (if the walls are papered) the removal of skirting and picture rails, followed by the application of heat over all parts likely to harbour bugs, by means of a painter's blow lamp. Finally each affected room is sprayed with Zaldecide.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that disinfestation of Council houses has become an increasing item in the expenditure on Public Health services, due to materials, workmen's fees, loss of rent, etc.

Other Nuisances.

Pig-keeping nuisances abated	3
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Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Number of Disinfections	6
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Steam Disinfectors.

The steam disinfectors situated at the Isolation Hospital was in use from time to time, disinfecting bedding, etc.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(a)—Inspection of Factories.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers' Prosecuted.
Factories	35	4	Nil
Outworkers' premises ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	35	4	Nil

(b)—Defects found in Factories.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Ref'd to H.M. Insp'tor	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	16	16	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	5	5	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes...	3	3	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factories Act, 1937</i> ...	—	—	—	—
Total	24	24	—	—

Shops Act.

Inspections have been made of the shops in the Borough with regard to the provision of Sanitary accommodation, washing accommodation, lighting and ventilation and in the case where assistants take meals on the premises, the provision of proper separate accommodation for taking these meals.

Cinema.

The Palace Cinema is inspected at regular intervals during the year and the sanitary arrangements, heating and lighting arrangements and ventilation have been found to be in excellent condition.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

With the exception by a Jew or a Mohammedan for his co-religionists, all animals have now to be slaughtered by means of electrically operated instruments. The provisions of this Act are being well complied with by all slaughtermen.

All slaughtermen are licenced by the Council.

The number at present being 17

Rainfall for the Years 1937 and 1938.

Month		Year 1937 Inches		Year 1938 Inches
January	...	5.00	...	2.72
February	...	5.37	...	.83
March	...	3.47	...	.18
April	...	3.34	...	.11
May	...	.99	...	1.32
June	...	1.37	...	1.29
July	...	1.64	...	2.55
August	...	1.45	...	2.24
September	...	3.80	...	2.23
October	...	3.77	...	4.71
November	...	1.22	...	3.57
December	...	2.57	...	3.48
Total	...	34.99 inches		25.23 inches

(I am obliged to Mr. Paradise, The Breach, Devizes for the above particulars).

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1938, under the above Acts, in the Devizes Urban District.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1)—(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	207
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	357
(2)—(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	169
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	201
(3)—	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	38
(4)—	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	87
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HOUSING ACTS—(continued).

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | | | | | 18 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

4.—*Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.*

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | 9 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | 10 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | 53 |
| (b) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | 11 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | 66 |
| (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | Nil |

(Signed), G. PRICE LAWRENCE,

Dated, 25th July, 1938.

Sanitary Inspector.